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DD/S&T-3721-69

19 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT: Management of Information Processing

REFERENCE: ExDir-Compt Draft Memorandum, same
subject, dated 12 Sept 69

1. In discussing the draft memorandum on management of information processing, I found considerable concern within the DDS&T that the paper does not really focus on the most important problems. Although all of the matters mentioned probably are appropriate, I wonder if this memorandum is not in fact premature.

2. I think you are well aware of my concern for the need to take some real steps forward in the information processing area. However, I feel the key question here is where do we start and how fast do we go. If I read the draft memorandum as broad guidance and some of the specific actions as examples only, I have no particular problem. If, on the other hand, I read it as a listing of the most important issues to be addressed, I am afraid that our view of the priorities differs considerably. To illustrate the point, I agree that there may be some necessity for clarifying roles and responsibilities as between Central Reference Service and Office of Computer Services, but I don't really believe that is a big problem at this time. I believe clarification as to the specific needs of CRS is all that is necessary.

3. The paper indicates that studies should be made on SIPS, SIDES, COINS and perhaps other ADP-related programs. While these may be helpful, I can't help but feel that what is really necessary is for the user components themselves to carefully and realistically examine and evaluate what their

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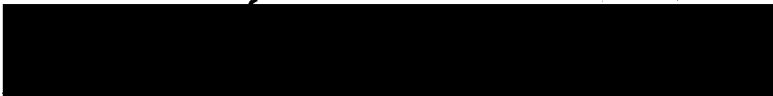
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needs are and to discuss with their own computer specialists, if any, and appropriate OCS specialists the feasibility of their plans.

4. I know that the Director is anxious to have you and O/PPB follow the ADP business closely, and I fully support that idea. I still feel, however, that the single most important need in the Agency is to create a greater sense of responsibility in line management and am afraid that a series of Agency-wide studies under auspices of O/PPB will not contribute to further involvement of line management but in fact may further postpone it.

5. In short, I would like to see a memorandum which spells out specifically what is meant in Para. 5a of the reference with regard to what the Deputy Directors should do in the way of the review of priorities. I believe that further discussion on the part of the Deputy Directors would be helpful before a formal paper is issued on management of information processing.

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for Carl E. Duckett
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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